Development of Agalega Islands as a tourist destination

3004. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mauritius has offered India to hand over the Agalega Islands on long-term lease basis for development as a tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government officials held talks with the counterparts of Mauritius, in connection with Agalega Islands offer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No such proposal has been received by Ministry of Tourism.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Special Tourism Zones

3005. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been drawn up to set up Special Tourism Zones (STZs), on the lines of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation; and

(c) the details of co-ordination established with big private players in the field of tourism and related services, essential for the growth of tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has formulated a scheme of Assistance for Large Revenue Generating projects for development of tourism infrastructure in public private partnerships and in partnerships with other Government/ Semi-Government agencies.